

REPORT ON "Camp Thunderbird"

August 6 - 13th - 1943

Central Branch Period

The first session of Central Y.M.C.A. boys at Camp Thunderbird opened on Friday, August 6th with an enrolment of staff and campers totalling twenty-two.

The camp was under the direction of A. T. Dodds, who was assisted by Simon Toye, a leader of many years experience at Central Branch and a scout leader at Camp Tamaracouta. Mrs. Dodds attended as dietician and cook.

Five older boys went as assistant leaders; George Staples, Joseph St. Dennis (bugler), John Atkinson, Don MacPherson and Ken Young.

Although none of these boys were over 14, they all rendered good service. They received a reduced fee in consideration of their services and in recognition of their leadership at the Indoor Camp.

Four tents were used and camp activities and organization were based on these units. The following boys participated.

Tent # 1 - Leader - Ken Young, Stuart Watson: Donald Allen: Fred Copley:
Ron Urquhart.

Tent # 2 - Leader Don Macpherson; Gerald Degras Ross Staples; Frank Staples;
Peter Eastop.

Tent # 3 - John Atkinson (Leader) : James McIsaac; Donald McIsaac: James
Martin; Norman Fabes.

Tent # 4 - Leader - Joe St. Denis; George Staples: James Degras; Ed. LeBlanc.

The daily routine of the camp generally followed this outline.

7.30am - Rising - wash and dip.

8.15 - Breakfast

9.15 - Tent Inspection

9.30 - 11am - Camp Projects.

11.00-11.45 - General Swim

12.15 - Dinner

1.00pm - 2.00 Rest Hour

2.00 - 4.00 - Program

4.00 - 4.45 - General Swim

5.30 Supper.

6.30 - 8.30pm - Free Period
9.00 - Camp Fire
9.30 Bible Reading by tent leader
9.35 - Taps - Lights out.

GENERAL PROGRAM ITEMS.

Hikes were held to near by woods. A Life Saving instruction class of eight boys was given drill and practice in methods of rescue twice a day. The camp-fire site was reconstructed and five camp fire programs were held. The cook-house benches and signs were painted. Work parties were sent to collect fire wood on the nearby islands. Several conducted excursions were held to Kozy Korners. Boating parties around the island were a daily attraction, but due to the fact that there were only two row-boats for twenty-two people, this sport was limited. Games of Commando's volley ball and nature study occupied much of the free time the boys had on the island. A brief Chapel Service was held on Sunday. Leaders' meetings and discussions were held frequently during the rest period.

A number of visitors came each day to the island and each in turn was given a tour of inspection. Mr. and Mrs. Nurse, son and daughter of Montreal attended several times and on their last visit brought homemade cookies and dessert for all the boys at camp which was very much appreciated. Altogether thirty-two people visited us of whom three remained for meals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Further equipment for the kitchen is required and serving dishes for use on dining room tables is needed. Many kitchen utensils listed must have been stolen as the supply was limited. The stove should be checked and repaired as the oven could not be used and did not supply adequate heat for quick cooking. An outside fireplace was constructed and used exclusively for cooking during the last five days of camp.

All supplies and necessary equipment should be purchased if possible in the city and taken to camp. Costs are much higher in the nearby stores and selection is limited. Purchasing, looking after the food stores and accounting should be the responsibility of one person for the entire season.

Additional boats are needed, a screen door on kitchen and a cheap ice box would help greatly to lessen the cost of food and add to the enjoyment of camping.

Despite the cold and wet weather encountered the boys enjoyed the camp. There were several cases of homesickness, James McIsaac who was diagnosed in time for him to reach the city where that evening he underwent an appendix operation.

In a small camp of this nature there is an excellent opportunity to know the personal problems of the boys, and there is a need for this type of camp within the close range of the city.

BUDGET

Receipts\$35.00
Donation.....\$50.00

EXPENDITURES

Cook.....\$20.00
Groceries.....\$67.22
Transportation..... 8.70
Miscellaneous..... 8.42
Total.....\$104.34

Average cost was 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per person per meal for food.

(Fees were \$7.00 a week with a reduction to the leaders.)

A. T. Dodds
Camp Director.